

Hacker's Creek Journal

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, Inc.
A Historical & Genealogical Society of Central WV

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 1, 2023

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News Articles Needed
Please consider submitting an article about your family for future publication. You could tell how your ancestors became part of Northcentral WV or other interesting stories. No more than 3 typewritten pages. Photos are great.
Send to HCPD, 45 Abbotts Run Rd., Horner, WV 26372 or hcpd@hackerscreek.com

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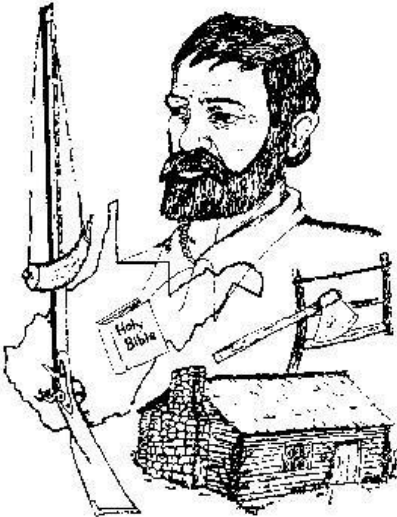
 <http://www.hackerscreek.org>

Patty Lesondak, Executive Director

Office hours: Monday—Thursday, 10:00—3:00
Open after hours by request

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Board Meetings

2nd Thursday of each month
1:00 P.M. at the library or via Zoom
Annual Meeting for 2023—August 12



Editorial policy:

Material is solicited from members & non-members. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject, and edit as deemed necessary. Neither HCPD nor its officers assume responsibility for errors of fact or opinions made by contributors.

Submission of material:

Articles should be typed when possible. Articles submitted electronically need to be in Word or a pdf format. Photographs or scanned documents should be in a JPEG format. Please include a SASE for any material to be returned.

Queries:

Queries are free. Be specific. Include full names, dates, and places if known & your contact information. 50-word limit per query.

Membership Dues:

Dues are \$40 annually per individual or household mailing address, due October 1. Members with unpaid dues (by 3 months grace period) will be dropped from the current year's membership roll.



Happy spring! Summer is just around the corner. The old saying that as you get older time seems to go much faster. I do believe that! At times I feel I'm on the brink of being caught up and then it begins to pile up and I'm behind again. Sort of like a traffic jam.

Sorry that the Journal is late. The blame is on me, because Carol gave it to me to finish up and I got pulled into different projects. We have to find articles and information to add to the Journal. It would be appreciated if members would help us. Send your stories, questions, queries and etc. anytime during the year to us and we will publish them. The newsletter will be due in June, great time now to send in some articles. I plan on sharing my Braxton County family story that I recently found.

The library is busy. We had weekly genealogy classes and do plan more classes in the fall. The classes were recorded and I hope to have them available soon. Our annual spaghetti dinner was held as a sit down meal. The first inside meal we have had in 5 years. We were a bit out of step on serving, but it came together and we profited around \$1000.00. The next fundraiser is a rummage and hot dog sale on May 5th & 6th. We are still in the planning stage of getting the pavilion installed. I will keep you informed and send pictures or a video when finished. Certainly have high hopes it will be done by Gathering time. When I have some extra time I will list more used books for sale.

If you have questions or concerns about the library then please feel free to contact me.

Enjoy the Journal!



meet our MEMBERS

Even though HCPD library is located in central WV, we have members all over the U.S. We thought that it would be enjoyable to “meet” our members. Therefore, this is a regular feature of the Journal to introduce members to each other. If you would like to be included, please send a brief bio and a picture or two to the Journal editor, Carol White, at cjswhite@gmail.com. We won’t, of course, include all of them at once. But, it will be interesting to see who is featured in the next issue of the Journal. Maybe it will be you!

Cheryl Ernestine Foster Lang




Cheryl Ernestine Foster Lang was born in Weston, WV and raised in nearby Jane Lew, WV. She attended schools in Jane Lew, Weston, and Suitland, MD, where she met her husband, Rick. They were married in 1971. Rick was discharged from USAF in Washington, D.C. in January 1973, and the couple moved to southern California where Rick operated a family photo business for 47 years. They raised two sons, Christopher and Joshua, and they have four grandchildren: Rain, Sage, Leo, and Jaden. Cheryl and Rick moved to Jane Lew in 2018 to stay.


Cheryl's parents were Earnest Foster and Millicent June Leon. They met in Manchester, England during WWII and married in 1949 in Jane Lew. June became an American citizen.

Earnest's father was Horace Foster, son of Nimrod Foster and Mary Dawson, living in Orlando, WV, with roots back 200 years and then to England. Horace married Ruby Hall and settled on Harper Street in Jane Lew. Cheryl and Rick's house property and land surrounding it goes back 200 years, 5 generations (now split between the Foster descendants).

Ruby was the daughter of Burkett Hall and Mary Hays. Burkett served Jane Lew as mayor, sheriff, and more. The Hall house is still standing in the area where the West Fort was located (Hall Street). On Harper Street is also located the Pioneer Cemetery (circa 1780) where many early settlers are buried (killed by Indian attacks). Hall Family ancestry began in Culpepper, VA. Descendants include General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Patriot of the American Revolution, Col. Edward Jackson.

		<p>As we learn about our ancestors' lives, they become real to us, not just names on a page. We thought that it would be interesting to learn about world events occurring in a decade of our history. Which of your ancestors were living during the featured decade? How old were they then? At what stage were their lives? As you read over these events, try to imagine the effect they might have had on your ancestors.</p>
Year	1900s	event
1900	US population exceeds 75 million. Gold Standard Act	
1901	W. McKinley assassinated; T. Roosevelt becomes president; US Steele founded	
1902	1 st Rose Bowl game; Newlands Reclamation Act	

1903	Ford Motor Co. formed; 1 st World Series; Big Stick Diplomacy
1904	Panama Canal zone acquired
1905	Niagara Falls conference; Industrial Workers of the World formed
1906	Pure Food & Drug Act & Meat Inspection Act
1907	Gentleman's Agreement
1908	Ford Model T on market; FBI established
1909	Penny is changed to Lincoln design; Robt Peary plants Am. Flag at North Pole; NAACP founded

	<p><i>Calliope's Corner</i></p>	<p>This feature allows members to share their original poetry and prose. Even though it would be quite appropriate for the themes to be somewhat related to ancestors, history, genealogy and such, that is not a hard-fast requirement. This is your chance to be in the spotlight by sharing your thoughts and feelings expressed in writing.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Why I Grow Marigolds</p> <p>To begin with, I don't like marigolds. In my opinion, they are not a pretty flower. They aren't exquisitely delicate and precise like lilies of the valley. They aren't full-bodied and bushy like hydrangeas. Their colors are bold and daring, not soft and subtle like magnolias or bluebonnets. Also, they have an unpleasant, yet strong smell. They are not soothingly aromatic like roses or fresh-scented like lilacs.</p> <p>Yet, they adorn my yard in abundance. Initially, I planted them because the numerous deer that frequent my yard at night recognize their less desirable qualities and leave them alone. Why nibble on a stinky marigold when delicate lilies are nearby?</p> <p>However, when the marigolds spread to a bushy conglomerate, I decided that they would adorn my yard annually. It was the fragrance that convinced me. The scent transported me back to my childhood home, a house flanked on two sides by marigolds and touch-me-nots.</p> <p>Fragrances have that power, you know. A cup of hot chocolate reminds us of building snow igloos, of red noses, cold fingers, and a reluctance to go inside to warm beside the wood stove, radiating its own unique aroma.</p> <p>Warm chicken soup is good for the soul because it makes us recall the tender, loving care of a mother for a sick child, her soft hands stroking back wafts of hair to plant a kiss atop a hot forehead. Then with a smile, one that each of us</p>		

will forever carry in our hearts, she reports, "101.2," thus confirming the accuracy of a mother's loving lips.

The smell of baking cookies, chocolate chips losing their shape and oozing onto the baking sheet as anxious fingers sample them, renews the excitement of returning home to play after a seemingly endless school day.

The aroma escaping from the oven of pumpkin pies warms our hearts as we recall the anticipation of our Thanksgiving feast, the chatter of children, Grandpa's stories, Grandma's warm embrace, the slight chill in the air as the door opens, admitting the scent of fallen leaves and the promise of winter's eminent arrival.

The fragrance of peonies, with their abundant, large blossoms drooping to the ground, causes me to walk again through my aunt's yard as she tells about each flower and bush, who gave them to her, how a grandchild broke a branch, or how the frost nipped some tender sprouts. Her flowers were her delight; they brought joy to a life filled with a mixture of arduous work, loss, heartache, and happiness found in the tender moments of family life. Her flowers were her respite from the mundane and her worries. They were her connection to deity, her reminder of the beauties life has to offer.

So, I will happily grow my marigolds...and remember by-gone days, endless summer days, happy days nestled safely in my loving home when my biggest worries were nothing more than a Santa wish list, homework, and stubbed toes.

Carol White

What's in a Name?

Note: The plan is to make this an ongoing feature of the Journal where information about West Virginia surnames may be included. If you have something to contribute to this feature, please email it to the editor, Carol White (see page 1).

ANDERSON English & Scottish. Patronymic. The son of Andrew becoming Anderson through metathesis. One of the ten commonest surnames in Scotland.

BELL English. Local. From residence at the sign of or by a bell. More probably from *Beal*, place name in Northumberland and in West Riding, Yorkshire.

HALL English. Local. Hall or manor house. It may have signified also a building for legal purposes or a building for worship.

THOMPSON English. Patronymic. "The son of Thomas" The common spelling in Scotland is Thomason, Thomasson

The Stories of a West Virginia Doctor

By Harold D. Almond, M.D.

"A Cold Night to Remember"

In late 1949, I settled down in wild, rural West Virginia with my family to open my practice as a General Practitioner. Medical School, Internship, and service in the Army Air Force were completed.

When I first started my practice, taking care of patients in their own homes was routine. I always liked to make house calls, even if I had to travel a far distance in my little jeep. I liked the solitude and the scenery. Many rural folks without reliable transportation in the 1950s and 1960s needed and were thankful for a doctor who would come see them when they were sick. But sometimes, traveling country roads could be difficult and even dangerous.

Late one night I made a house call down the Hall Road. I crossed under the railroad track, passed the church, and drove my jeep down to the rock quarry where the State Road had taken out tons of rock for the county road. It was wet, half rain and half snow. The Buckhannon River was high, but not out of its bank. There were chunks of ice floating down stream.

The road ended suddenly at the edge of the river. The brother of my sick patient was waiting with a row boat. The brother seemed a bit strange, but I knew he had been receiving treatment for a mental sickness by a psychiatrist in Baltimore. "Do you want to row, or should I?" he asked. I elected to row, and he climbed in the front end of the row boat. Half way across the river, he sneaked up and squeezed my thyroid bone and neck. I was mad and full of pain. I tossed that one-hundred and nine pound man into the river, and he gasped for breath. Lucky for him, I had tossed him up stream. He swam to the boat, and I pulled him up. We floated down seventy-five yards or more and I lost an oar. I paddled to the far shore with one oar, and the two of us ran up to his cottage. He was soaking wet, and I was just wet.

When we reached the house, I examined his sister, gave her a shot, and left medicine. I dried out, paddled back across the river, and tied up the boat and hiked back upstream. I was cold, damp, and shivering. I turned up the heater in my jeep and hurried home. I took a long, hot shower and climbed into bed, still cold.

Fifteen minutes later a call came from Pickens to see a patient up on Turkey Bone Mountain. I told the caller I could come, but I couldn't walk because I was still half frozen. "You will not have to walk a step,": she assured me over the phone.

I drove through deep snow and reached the Pickens road in about ninety minutes. Tony, the patient's son, met me at the crossroads and told me we had to walk three miles upward to see his mother because the snow had closed the road. He grabbed my doctor bag, and I followed his footsteps. It was blowing and cold by this time. Tony's mother was very sick. I gave her a shot, aspirin and codeine, and then climbed into a bed of bear skins and slept well until daylight. After breakfast, a man arrived with a horse and sled. We headed for Pickens and soon came to the Pickens road. Even though we had made good time back, the short trip made me cold again. My jeep wouldn't start, so the horse pulled me downhill until the motor turned over. I was on my way home with the heater going full blast. No, I didn't catch pneumonia, not even a cold. It was a night to remember. (source: Almond, Harold D. M.D. *The Stories of a West Virginia Doctor*. Parsons: McClain Printing, 2006.)



Jane Lew, Lewis County, WV

Mary Ann Maxwell Radabaugh (deceased November 2022) of Glenville was a history and genealogy buff who just happened to be a descendent of Jane Lewis Maxwell for whom Jane Lew is named. Mrs. Radabaugh offered the following account of the story of Jane Lew as well as a connection to Weston.

In 1799, Thomas Maxwell and others ventured into what is now Lewis County. Mrs. Radabaugh believed this was his second trip in, and he was returning to East Nottingham township of Chester, PA, where he lived, to get his family when he drowned.

Thomas was the son of Robert and Elizabeth Maxwell. In 1784, he married Miss Jane Lewis, who was the daughter of Alexander and Mary Smith Lewis.

In the fall of 1799, Mrs. Jane Lewis Maxwell, with her six orphaned children, moved to Harrison County and settled on land owned by Col. William Lowther near what is now the town of West Milford.

The family lived in an old cabin for a time, until Col. Lowther could get another one built for them. It was here that she raised her six children: Abner (born 1785), Levi (born 25 July 1788), Lewis (born 1790), Robert (born 1790), Mary (born 1795), and Amy (born 27 August 1799).

Jane Lewis Maxwell later moved to Lost Creek, and then to what is now Jane Lew. She was living there when she died on October 20, 1835.

It was very courageous for a widow with six children, the oldest one being 14 and the youngest only a few weeks old, to pick up and move to a strange area that was still thought of as a wilderness. However, she and this West Virginia wilderness built quite a family.

Abner Maxwell was captain of a Harrison County company in the War of 1812. He later moved to Doddridge County. One of his sons later. Moved to Gilmer County.

Levi Maxwell moved to what is now Weston. The first Lewis County Court meeting was held in his home.

Lewis Maxwell was among those appointed to the first Lewis County Board of Education by the County Court in 1818. He served as a member of the U.S. Congress from 1827 to 1833.

Lewis was also a surveyor. When his mother died in 1835, Lewis bought the 200-acre farm of Jacob and Martha Hughes Bonnett from Nicholas and Elisabeth Bonnett Alkire.

Lewis laid the land off in lots and streets. He named it Jane Lew for his mother, Jane Lewis Maxwell, whose name many believe he wanted to hear spoken forever because of her great courage and accomplishment.

Lewis Maxwell was among those men who sold capital stock to get a clay-surfaced turnpike opened from Weston to Jane Lew and on the Lost Creek in 1847. He was also one of three men who realized the opportunity of there being a town at Weston.

These three men bought this land and sold it back to the country for \$300 and had Col. Edward Jackson lay it off in lots and streets. It was called Preston, then Fleshersville, and in 1819 Weston. Certainly, Jane Lewis Maxwell's courage and tenacity was passed down to her children. (source: Mary Ann Maxwell Radabaugh)

Copley, (Part 4)
By Nelson F. Lough

Disclaimer: Due to the fact that the material for this research was collected mainly by oral interviews and compiled by one not familiar with the techniques and methods of the oil business, the information contained herein cannot be said to be valid or completely true and should not be used for any purpose other than that intended by the author; to show the effect the booming of an oil derrick had on a small, quiet farming community.

Note: Mr. Lough wrote this while attending Glenville State College in 1966 by assignment from history teacher, Dr. Jones. He was to write an original story concerning the history of an area around central WV. His wife, Joyce Moneypenny Lough, was born and raised in the small community of Copley, Lewis Co, WV. Since they were living at Copley at the time, it seemed appropriate to Nelson to use "The effects of the Copley No. 1 Oil Well on the Copley

The Copley School

The first school at Copley was an old-fashioned one room school which was situated very near the location of the Copley #1 well. But, when the gigantic well began spurting oil, the school was temporarily closed; at least it was thought to be only temporary, but there was no school the remaining months of the 1900-1901 school year and the entire following school year. The problem evidently was the fear of fire, but this is not definitely determined.

It was soon decided that a new school would have to be built and school property was obtained from Newt Turner about one-fourth a mile from the famous well. A wooden structure two-room school was built and the first two teachers were Mary Ellen Gullooly and Elisa Murphy. The small school was then under the trustee system and had three trustees although no names of these people were available. Information was recalled; however, that one trustee habitually checked the amount of time given for recesses and complained to the teacher to keep the children off the ice on nearby Sand Fork. The teachers were bossed until finally one male teacher affronted the trustee and retorted that the children were in his custody, and the trustee could either fire him or kindly keep his nose out. The man retained his position, and the doctrinaire interference ceased.

There were no school buses as yet; in fact, there were none in 1926 when this following data was current. One room contained grades 1,2,3, and 4 and had a total of 37 pupils. Since no school buses were running, all these pupils walked from the near vicinity.

The other room had the remaining fifth through eighth grades. The seats in the classrooms were the old type which had space for two pupils each. The toilets were built behind the school against the hill that also served as the play area.

A third room was added behind the school in 1943; the first teacher to use this room was Mayme Mullady. Around 1950, a kitchen and restrooms were added behind the original two rooms and a short time later, another kitchen was built behind the former kitchen which was remodeled into a lunch room. At the expense of the South Penn Oil Company, a portion of the hill alongside the school was graded off and a pipe fence was installed which encircles the school adding much needed. Protection due to the school's proximity to the road. Due to the lack of school yard, older grades were allowed to go to the woods and play. But this was ceased in 1955 when more land below the road was acquired for a ball diamond and swinging apparatus (again furnished by South Penn). In 1960, Copley school received counter-type laboratory equipment and a mimeograph machine.

The interior of the entire school was remodeled in 1966 consisting of new plywood paneling throughout and a new front door. All the older type seats were replaced with new modern ones. After the recent consolidation of Lewis County schools in 1967, the Copley School was permanently closed.

The following few sketches represent some incidents that possibly occur only in small country schools such as Copley was:

Copley school, as was said earlier, was built on property obtained from Newt Turner. This same man had previously owned the land where the Copley church was built and, consequently, the two buildings stood within a few feet of each other. This closeness of location worked fine except for funerals. During funerals, the school would recess for their duration and at times, some of the small school girls would act as flower girls.

Between the time the kitchen was built and the time the old kitchen was remodeled into a lunch-room, there was no place for the children to eat. So it was necessary for the pupils to walk past a window where his filled plate was handed to him, and he returned to his normal seat to partake of the food.

Before the restrooms were installed, the toilets were built behind the school against the side of the hill. This situation caused grief in winter because of the task it was to gain access to the toilets due to ice and the steepness of the grade. During times when the path was not icy, the pupils, especially the smaller ones, would sometimes fall on the cinder pathway and the teacher had the opportunity to practice first-aid as he methodically picked cinders out of bloody knees.

Copley School occasionally had a poor teacher, as can be expected in any school. One such teacher suffered the terrible ordeal of not being able to maintain control over his pupils, especially females. He would tell his pupils to take their seats and all the girls would sit down in their places backward and refuse to turn about. His lack of control finally increased to the point that some girls locked him in the old toilet and he had to spend the entire night locked up before anyone let him out. ☺

Another teacher suffered from somnolence and would sleep so soundly that the pupils would all sneak off home. Once the County Superintendent of Schools arrived after the children had departed and the teacher was still sleeping. The climax of this tale results from the children sticking so much chewing gum in the sleeping teacher's hair that he had to be practically shaved to get rid of it. ☺

The school lacked space when hunting Easter eggs, so the upper classes were allowed to hide eggs around the derrick of Copley #1. Once again, the ground resounded around the old well-not of men seeking oil but of children seeking eggs



Betty Ann Nicholson Obituary

With heavy hearts, we announce the death of Betty Ann Nicholson of Weston, West Virginia, who passed away on November 24, 2022 at the age of 76.

She was predeceased by her parents, John Everett and Hattie Marie Ward (Smith); and her half-sister JoAnn Shore. She is survived by her husband Randall E. Nicholson.

Betty Ann served as treasurer of HCPD and formerly as director. She was devoted to HCPD and was excellent as treasurer. She is greatly missed by all who knew and loved her, as we did at HCPD.

Yesteryears by Bill Adler

A Glimpse of Rural Lewis County in 1883

In February 1883, a representative of the *Weston Democrat* toured some of the rural areas of Lewis County, and his account of his travels was published in the paper's issue of February 17 as follows:

"Editor Democrat: 'There is a pleasure in the pathless woods, and a rapture on the lonely shore,' (1) But just where the fun comes in traveling over the present muddy roads, we are not able to say. It has been mud, mud, mud, and rain, rain, rain since ouyr departure fro Weston on Monday morning the fifth instant, and things will have to change, or it will be mud and rain continually—for the next century.

"Bidding goodbye to the classical shades of Weston, after a hard half-day's ride, we wound up our first day's journey at the 'Four Mile House' of Ham. Bush, near Gaston. Pushing our almost frozen nose through the doorway, we were given a most cordial welcome by the proprietor, who soon made us feel perfectly at home, as he does all who call at his house for rest and refreshments.

"Gaston being so close to Weston, and so well-known needs no description from us further than to say it has something near a dozen houses, a store, post office, mill, physician's office, shoemaker, and blacksmith shop—little industries that are essential in all small villages.

"We made business calls on Messrs. N. Bush, who owns a large and fine farm immediately below the village, W. B. Smith, the shoemaker, C.W. Smith, the physician, and others in the community whose names we have forgotten, and found them all to be most pleasant and agreeable gentlemen, and a class of citizens that are an honor to the county.

“Sturm & Co. are at work on a bridge across Stone Coal for the town people that will give them access to the depot at all times. They built a road bridge across the creek above the town for the county during the past year, and they have a contract for a railroad bridge across the creek—thus making three bridges put across Stone Coal by this enterprising firm in a short time.

“From Gaston, we turned our horse’s head toward Georgetown on Wednesday morning, but found that the clouds had been shedding such floods of tears that the little brooklets were swollen into impassable rivers, and so we had to halt with Mr. RW. Wilson, a very clever (2) gentleman indeed, and await the subsiding of the waters.

“Late in the evening, we succeeded in crossing and arrived soon after at Georgetown, where the sheltering roof and kindly attentions of Mr. Levi Clark and his family gave us much needed rest. Here we found Mr. A.K. Clark, who teaches the Georgetown school, a subscriber of the *Democrat* and a member of the last county Board of Education, briskly engaged in his professional duties. He apparently has succeeded so well that he is one of the talked of candidates for county superintendent.

“Taking leave of the kindly Georgetownites, we started our trip to Austin (3), and although the roads were rough as they could possibly get, we soon had the pleasure of drawing rein at the hotel of Mr. M.V. Chidester and received a genuine West Virginia welcome. The village of Austin has two stores, two churches, a fine steam flouring mill, and several shops, and contains from twelve to fifteen dwellings or perhaps more.

“Mr. N.E. Peterson, the proprietor of the flouring mill, has recently erected a fine dwelling, which adds very much to the surroundings of the place. We called on several gentlemen in the interests of the paper and found the same genial spirit manifested in all that we had previously met. At the hotel, we met Messrs. Farnsworth and Hawkins, two drummers well known in this part of the county who had storm-stayed for a couple of days.

Mr. W.V. Chidester, the hotel proprietor who is so well-known throughout this section, represented this county one term in the Legislature most acceptably and has been a Justice of the Peace for 20 years. He is now a notary public and is almost constantly engaged in writing legal papers. Mr. C. is a man of sound judgment, a close reader and a apt observer.

“His excellent wife is a first-rate doctor, we might say, and as we have been complaining like some chronic hippochondriac (sp) for some time past, if it had been possible to have remained, we feel satisfied that we should have regained health—even if we lost our heart; for there are some pretty girls in that section and-well, typos (4) are always susceptible.

“Mr. C. has recently built a fine addition to his property and has been repainting and otherwise improving and beautifying his premises. From Austin, we wended our way to Pinhook, a thriving little village about a mile above Walkersville, and of which we never heard before, although it is of considerable size, and quite a business place, with two stores, a steam

mill, and other places of business. (5). Here we staid (sp) over Sunday with Mr. Blair, one of the leading citizens of the community, and looked out over the dreary landscape flooded again with the downpouring rains and the rushing torrents of water.

“All through our route thus far we have been impressed with the lack of bridges crossing streams—having crossed but one bridge, to the best of our recollection, after we left the one a mile above Weston on Stone Coal—while it seems that we crossed but little short of a million streams of all sizes, grades, and conditions.

“It seems also to us that, without great expense, sign-boards should be put up at principal road crossings to direct the traveler in his way. This would be a great convenience as well as improvement.

“We noticed the *Democrat* calendar tacked up in nearly all business places visited and found it also in many private families. This shows that the people appreciate your endeavors to give them the worth of their money. We also observed that many persons are keeping the paper on file—thus indicating as evidence of intellectual vigor.

“West Virginians are everywhere renowned for their hospitality, but what is good enough for them is hardly good enough for the stranger who may stop at their door, and so he is treated to thee best in the larder and given the nicest bed and easiest chair in the house. All honor to their unselfish liberality, and would that the world at large was more thus inclined. In conclusion, we desire to express thanks to all whom we met for the kindly attention and consideration shown a wandering type.”

Footnotes: (1) Lord Byron’s “Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage”. (2)The word “clever” is an unusually interesting word. It can be used positively to characterize a magician, and it can be used negatively to describe a pickpocket. (3)Austin was renamed Vandalia at some later date. (4) “Typo” was sort of slang for “typographer” or printer (5)This seems to have been a joke. Certainly, the writer would have known of the village of Crawford. “Pinhook” was a derisive nickname for Crawford. (Note: Yesteryears are sold at the HCPD library. Volumes 1--11. Price \$12-\$20. They may be purchased on our website or at the Library.)



Journal of The Braxton Historical Society

Vol. 18, No. 1

March 1990

The Traugh Family: Early Pioneers In America

By: Robert L. Traugh

Members of the Traugh family were among the early settlers in America. The English had made settlements in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, and at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. More settlers came to the New World until the 13 colonies were well established. After the American Revolution there was an increased influx of immigrants who sought new horizons in the land of opportunity.

There were several reasons why so many immigrants were anxious to brave courageous adventures to find new homes in a land, where they could have a better life, free of unrest and oppression. Most of all, they sought freedom of religion, freedom of expression, the right to own property and relief from hunger.

First of all, migrations to America were accelerated by the exploits of Napoleon Bonaparte in Europe.

Napoleon (1769 - 1821) was born on the island of Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea. His parents were Carlo and Maria Buonaparte, of Italian ancestry. Being short in stature, Napoleon became the butt of jokes and ridicule among his school classmates.

After he finished his elementary education, his parents decided to send him to a military school in Paris. Even in the military academy he was considered inferior by the other cadets. This continued abuse since childhood conditioned the boy's personality. He became misanthropic and paranoid. Although rebuffed, Napoleon resolved to establish his identity and become equal -- if not superior to those who abused him. He learned his military lessons well; furthermore, he learned lessons in how to manipulate other people.

**This Article is Sponsored by the Writer in Memory of His Parents
Pat and Dollie Traugh**

During the French Revolution, when he commanded a unit of artillery, he earned the title of The Little Corporal. He rose in rank quickly.

In the counter-revolution of 1793, Napoleon distinguished himself by consolidating the government forces and crushing the dissidents. After that he rose quickly in the officer rank and soon became the top general of France.

When France's neighbors sent armies to counter the French Republic, Napoleon quickly overcame their forces, thereby securing domination over the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Venice.

Realizing his own genius as a military leader and as a politician, Napoleon dared to forge ahead. In time, by his conquests in Central Europe, he had himself elected First Consul of the Directory of the French Republic, and finally Emperor of France (1805).

As Emperor, Napoleon secured domination of Central Europe. He practically dissolved the Holy Roman Empire, fearing that it stood in his way. As he advanced in his objectives, he soon realized that he was making strong enemies. A number of coalitions were organized to oppose him. The Sixth Coalition proved his undoing: Austria, Prussia, Russia and England. Napoleon struck out against Russia with a large army. He actually entered Moscow but had to retreat with heavy losses. However, he had a second enemy on the campaign -- cold and hunger.

Napoleon's last great victory was at Dresden, but he was badly defeated in the 3-day "Battle of the Nations," at Leipzig. He retreated to Paris, where captured by the Allies who imprisoned him on the island of Elba. The Allies restored the French monarchy by placing Louis XVIII on the throne (1814).

In less than a year Napoleon escaped from Elba and returned to France, where he began to raise another army.

In a final battle with the Allies, he lost at Waterloo. This time he was exiled to St. Helena, where he died (1821).

Quite a bit of attention is given to Napoleon for the reason that the man was ruthless in conquering people who opposed him. In spite of his heavy-fisted tactics, his soldiers adored him as a leader because they were convinced he was fighting for a democratic cause. However, Napoleon was cruel in the way he conscripted men into his armies as laborers and as soldiers. As Napoleon marched, the people suffered. His armies lived off the land by conscripting all needed supplies -- horses, cattle, wagons and foodstuffs, thereby robbing the peasantry, as well as the nobility.

Millions sought to free themselves from his dictatorial practices.

Millions had sought religious freedom although Martin Luther had started religious reforms when he posted his 95 theses on religious abuses on a church door in Wittenburg, Germany, (1507), nearly three hundred years before Napoleon's time.

To people, democratic in belief, America seemed a land of hope and promise. Thousands of the Irish came to America during the "Potato Famine" (1845-1847).

The Traugh family traces its lineage to the southern provinces of Germany. From there several members of the family migrated to Holland. From Holland they crossed the English Channel into England and Scotland.

As time went by the Traugh name underwent many changes. Earliest records indicate the name as Drach; then it changed to Trach; Tragh; Troogh; Trof; Trough to Traugh. It was not until the turn of the century that the name was finally Anglicized to Traugh, because the spelling of Trough sometimes elicited ridicule. We shall use the finalized spelling in the rest of this article.

Information on the Traugh family has been supplied by numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. Much of our information was given to us by Richard L. Traugh, D.D.S. of Bridgeport (1988), West Virginia, who received it, in turn, from Norman Dranier (age 92), a grandson of Augustus Dranier and Harriet Traugh Dranier. Additional data was provided by Mrs. Glenneda King of Acme, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Pauline Corbin of Amarillo, Texas.

Since there are hundreds of heads of families with the surname of Traugh or Trough, scattered throughout the United States, this study is limited in scope for reasons that research was limited by time, expense and energy. Therefore, this article mainly concerns the family branches that settled in Pennsylvania, Doddridge County and Braxton County in West Virginia.

David K. Traugh was born in Scotland in 1808. Then the family moved back to Dormstadt, Germany. Already they had heard of the promise of freedom and a better life in the New World.

William Penn promised land and freedom to all settlers who would come to America and seek a home on his land grant in Pennsylvania.

Rudolph Traugh, from Holland, was the first to come to this country. He sailed on the ship Thistle, landing at Philadelphia August 29, 1730.

The Traughs were among the first settlers in Buck's County, Pennsylvania. From 1730 to 1830 more Traugh families came, settling near one another.

Then other families came, with the same surname, settling on a land warrant called Mayhill. One of them, Peter Traugh, served in the Revolutionary War under Captain Walter McKinnie. In time, of course, members of the Traugh family became legion.

Cheap transportation contributed to immigration to America. Ships that brought grain, cotton, indigo and tobacco from the New World returned to America with immigrants, packed aboard from first class cabins to steerage, at very low fares.

It is strange that some European governments encouraged emigration. Emigration had a two-fold effect: it relieved overpopulation, and reduced the risk of social upheavals and revolution.

One ship, carrying immigrants, was wrecked off the coast of New Jersey. Among the passengers were Henry, David and Mary Traugh, together with

John and Susan Von Sattler. The group became good friends and stayed together as they crossed into Pennsylvania to settle at Point Marion, across the Monongahela River, not far from Morgantown, West Virginia.

Romance blossomed in the group. Mary Traugh married John Von Sattler; David Traugh married Susan Von Sattler.

Henry Traugh finally settled in Michigan. David and Susan developed a good farm in Pennsylvania. David built a grist mill. Later they moved south into Boothsville, where they had an excellent farm and operated a grist mill. Here their children were born: Jacob (1831), the great grandfather of this writer, Jonathan, Martin, Henry and William.

In time David and Susan sold their property in Pennsylvania and purchased a tract of land west of Salem, in Doddridge County, West Virginia. This piece of land consisted of 2,560 acres, at ten cents an acre. Its area was four miles long by one mile wide, lying in a beautiful green valley that had a large stream, teeming with fish. This was the Salem Fork of Greebrier Creek, a branch of Middle Island. The property extended westward along the creek, and it was here that they cleared some land. On a beautiful knoll above a bend in the creek, they built a house, a typical log cabin of the time, with two large rooms, a lean-to kitchen and a sleeping loft for the boys. In this house Harriet Traugh was born, March 17, 1840, the only girl in the family. Later four boys were born: Charles, John, George and Cyrus.

Again David built a grist mill near their house. The foundation of the old mill can still be seen.

Susan and her brother John Sattler received word that they had inherited an estate in Germany. They decided not to claim it. They did not wish to make the trip to lay claim; moreover, they feared that they would not be able to return to America.

John Sattler and Mary Traugh Sattler were blessed with three sons -- Rudolph, Moses and William. When they grew up they all settled in Doddridge County.

The discovery of oil in Pennsylvania and Burning Springs, West Virginia, produced a booming business. The Traugh boys became involved in the oil business in one way or another.

Then came the war between the states. There were many instances in which members of families were turned against each other in their loyalties. David and Susan Traugh had three sons who were enrolled on the Union Side -- Martin VanBuren Traugh, Cyrus A. Traugh and John K. Traugh. Martin was taken prisoner and was held eight months in Confederate prisoner-of-war camps. During his term of final imprisonment, Martin was elected captain by his fellow prisoners. That office gave him some supervisory powers over camp regulations and the disbursing of rations. After the war he was honorably discharged at Cumberland, Maryland, June 27, 1865. Suffering from the effects of malnutrition and prison conditions, he became unable to perform any manual labor. He applied for a disability pension and was awarded \$30.00 a month.

Cyrus served the Union cause in Company C., 6th West Virginia Infantry. During the war he lost an arm. After the war he returned to his home in Doddridge County and became a prosperous merchant and farmer.

John K. Traugh left home at the age of 18 because his mother threatened to whip him. After the war he settled near Nelsonville, Ohio, where he is buried.

After the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was completed through Doddridge County, David sold most of his land to Irish laborers who had worked on the railroad. The family continued to live at the old homeplace. Then David and Susan bought a tract of land in Salem, near the Seventh Day Baptist Church. Here they built a new house and sold the old homeplace.

After David's death in 1869, Susan ran the Jeffers Hotel for a time. Susan died in 1883. Both she and David are buried in the Seventh Day Baptist Church Cemetery in Salem.

A definite genealogy of the Braxton County Traughs is traceable back to the Doddridge County Traughs. It can be summarized as follows:

The great, great grandparents of this writer were David K. and Susan Traugh. Their children were Jacob (the great grandfather of this writer), and his brothers -- Jonathan Traugh, George Traugh and Harriet Traugh. Jacob married Martha Amelia Davison, the great grandmother of this writer.

Jacob and Martha's children were Richard Lloyd (the grandfather of this writer), and his brothers William Jefferson Traugh, Edwin Powell Traugh, Benjamin Wilson Traugh, and their sisters, Flora and Buena V. Traugh. Siblings who died in infancy were Lee Traugh, Olive Virginia Traugh, Brent Traugh, Henry Franklin Traugh and Mary Traugh. In those days families were usually large, infant mortality was almost unbelievable. Two of these young men, Edwin Powell Traugh and Benjamin Wilson Traugh settled in Oklahoma, became involved in cattle and were among the first developers of oil and gas business near Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Richard Lloyd Traugh married Virginia Byrd Ringer. They moved to Copen Run, in Braxton County, near the end of the 19th century. Their children were: "Pat" Nay Traugh (the father of this writer), Nye Traugh and sisters, Flora and Hettie Traugh. The record is incomplete of their tedious journey to Copen Run. They probably took a train from Salem to Parkersburg, then transferred to a river boat that took them up the Little Kanawha River to Gilmer Station in Gilmer County. The rest of the trip up Copen Run was by horseback. Their first home was a log cabin.

"Pat" Nay Traugh, born on Copen Run September 20, 1892, became a coal miner. When World War I broke out, he served his country in a machine gun battery in the A.E.F., in France. After the Armistice in 1918, he returned to Copen Run and went back to work in the mines. He married Dollie Underwood, April 26, 1919. "Pat" Traugh was a good worker and a good provider. He was adept in several trades, but he preferred coal mining. He and his partner, Pete Ford, were known to dig and hand load enough coal in one shift to fill a railroad car.

He died September 13, 1958, and is buried on a hillside above the mines where he worked, together with his wife, Dollie, and son, Ralph.

"Pat" and Dollie were the parents of eight children -- Sherman Ellis Traugh, Ralph Traugh (deceased), Robert Lee Traugh (this writer), Charles Edward Traugh, Helen Louise Traugh, Thelma E. Traugh, Lloyd Jacob Traugh and Shirley Spurgeon Traugh.

This writer spent 30 years in the U.S. Navy before retiring, having served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Four brothers also served in the U.S. Navy -- Sherman, Charles, Jacob and Shirley. All returned home safely.

On December 12, 1945, this writer married Helen L. Cutlip, the daughter of Melvin Cutlip and the granddaughter of Newton Cutlip, both residents of Exchange, West Virginia. We have no children.

In conclusion, one may say that the history of the Traugh Family is an interesting saga of human experience. The Traughs came to America to find a New World that offered freedoms, hope and a new life denied in the Old World.

This writer wishes to thank Ralph V. Cutlip of San Gabriel, California, for his guidance and help in bringing this article to a successful conclusion.

Finally, I wish to dedicate this genealogy study to my wife, Helen Cutlip Traugh, who gave me continuous encouragement in my research efforts.

The Braxton County Journals are available to read in our library, not for sale unless we have a used one.

Librarian Report

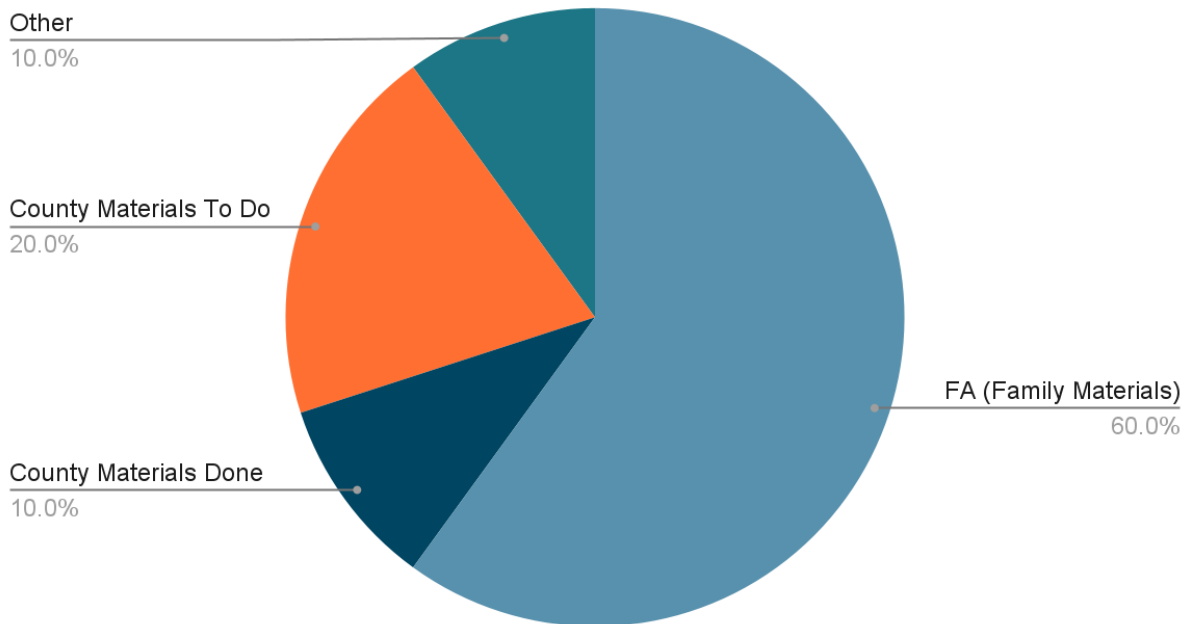
By Paula McGrew

Progress on the Cataloging Project, by Paula McGrew

We are making good progress!

1. Marsha Propst and I have been pulling each and every book from the shelves and assigning keywords to help you find what you need. As of now there are more than 2300 keyword tags being used - the great majority of them are surnames and place names, but also topics such as Birth Records, Cemetery Records, Court Records, Death Records, Marriage Records, Marriage Records, Personal Reflections, etc.
 - a. More than half of our items are FA (Family) materials. These are all done!
 - b. More than half of the rest of the items in the collections are together by counties (we are making steady progress here).
 - c. The rest are things such as Appalachia, WV, VA, OH, Military, Immigration, etc. These are all together and easily found on the shelves, but not tagged or changed in the catalog in any way as of yet.

Items Completed



At the end of the day, when you look in the catalog on our website, you will be able to search by any of these keyword tags. For more, click on the Basic Tutorial on the [Library Catalog page](#) on the HCPD Website. Stay tuned for more progress reports! And, one million thanks to Marsha for all of her work on this!!!!

GATHERING INFO:

The 2023 Gathering will be held August 10-12, 2023. We are still in the planning stages and the Agenda or Program will be out soon. This year the price to attend the 3 days is \$40.00 each person and if attending the Banquet \$15.00 each person, mark whether Chicken or Steak. Will let you know more very soon.

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